

SERVICE OF TRIUMPH

FOR

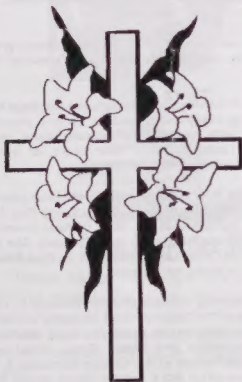
MRS. FLORENCE BRAXTON SMITH

Sunrise

September 7, 1910

Sunset

August 25, 1998



CLINTON MEMORIAL A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

151 Broadway, Newark, New Jersey

Monday, August 31, 1998 11 O'Clock A.M.

Rev. Frances Murray Williams, Pastor

OBITUARY

Florence Braxton, the daughter of Marietta and Robert Braxton, Sr. was born September 7, 1910 in the city of Newark, New Jersey.

She was educated in the Newark Public School System, graduating from Washington Street Grammar School, June 30, 1925; she then attended and graduated from Central High School.

At an early age her mother attracted her to the piano, which was in the home and always played by her mother and grandmother, both being accomplished musicians.

Her mother died at an early age. Raised by her widowed grandmother, who daily inspired her to continue her piano lessons, which she diligently did.

Later years she met and married Myer Blango, the marriage lasted a few years. She continued to study and played for various churches. Later she became involved with philanthropic organizations, such as the Elks, N. A. A. C. P., Tents and etc. See insert for her additional biography and achievements.

Florence was married to Billy Smith for many glorious years, until his death in 1975. She is also acknowledged in the Swing City Jazz History Book, honoring black musicians in the state of New Jersey, honoring their musical skills and contributions to music history. She was a loyal and dedicated member of Clinton Memorial A. M. E. Zion Church, where she served as Minister of Music for 50 years.

She leaves to mourn, a loving devoted Brother, Richard E. Harvest, Sr., her best friend, Dorothy Thomas, two God-children, Alyce West and Linda Holt, a host of cousins, nieces, nephews, Great nieces, nephews, Great Great nieces, nephews and Great, Great, Great nieces and nephews. A host of close friends of the Clinton Memorial A. M. E. Zion Church family, Daughters of I.B.P.O.E. of the World, Essex Temple #42, Council #1, Tents, YWCA, NAACP, National Council of Negro Women and Girl Scouts of America, Inc.

"The pains of death are passed
Labor and sorrow cease
Life's warfare is closed at last
Her soul is found at peace."

Sorrowfully submitted,

Dedication



Mrs. Florence B. Smith

Music has always been an important factor in the religious experience of the Black people of America. The gospel songs of today represents a synthesis of the older spiritual Jubilees and shout songs, blues, hymns and the rhythmic sounds so popular with the current younger generation.

We are indeed proud of the contributions that our own Florence B. Smith has made to this religious experience of Black America.

Each musical performance is a unique experience for the choir, the audience, the services whatever the nature, and the performer alike. She prefers to perform with a sense reflecting her own feelings, her faith in God, her testimony as a Christian, and as an expression of her love for music.

Biography

Music the life and love of one Florence B. Smith. We say life because Florence started out at an early age playing by ear for Macedonia Baptist Church, Maiden Lane, Newark. At the early age of 15, she started as organist of Union Baptist Church, under the late Rev. T. T. Tucker.

She was united in marriage to Mr. Myer Blango in 1928.

With the passing of her grandmother, who afforded her religious and musical training, she became disillusioned and bewildered with life. Perplexed and confused she was tempted by the world but not for long. She sang with the popular trio "3 Notes of Melody" along with Mrs. Melba Williams and Mrs. Amy Patterson, Mr. Wooten, Organist.

Her musical training under Mrs. Ernestine Brown Aaron, Pianist and Miss Arline Challis, Organist both of whom are affiliated with Griffith Music Co., was a direct result of the efforts of her grandmother who recognized her talent and in her humble way encouraged her to continue her studies and follow in the footsteps of her mother who was also a musician.

She has served as organist of Friendship Baptist Church, assisting sometimes Mrs. Ruth Clark, Mr. Nathan Jones or Mrs. Helena Felton. As a member of Bethany Baptist Church she sang with the Senior Choir. A member of the Daughters of I B P O E. of the World, she has served as Organist for Essex Temple No. 42, Council No. 1, Organist for the New Jersey State Association and was duly elected as Grand Organist for this Order in 1956. She holds membership in the Tents, Woodmen recognition as Junior Leader of the Girl Scouts of America, Inc., Member of the Y.W.C.A. NAACP, National Council of Church Women, National Council of Negro Women, served as secretary of the Elites, Member Bird of Paradise Social Club. She has served as a member of The All Girls Orchestra under the leadership of Mrs. Amy Garrison and Mrs. Georgia Winters. Still searching for her call, she worked at Picalinney Arsenal and doing odds jobs requiring her musical skills for local organizations and many churches.

At the suggestion of the late Mrs. Aellene Simmons, the late Rev. James C. Nelson, then pastor of Clinton Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church approached her in 1946 and asked her to consider the position of Organist of this great church. Since she was already a member of the choir, it was not too difficult to make her decision.

With a combination of fear and trust she joined with the late Mr. Porterfield, Choir Director and began a brilliant career as Organist which has spanned over the last thirty years.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Rev. Frances Murray-Williams Officiating

- Prelude.....Mr. Norman J. Bacon
Minister of Music
- *Processional
- *Words of Assurance
- *Hymn of PraiseBlessed Assurance.....243
- * The Scripture Lessons
- Old Testament..... Psalms 90: 1-11
New Testament.....St. John 14: 1-7
- Prayer of Comfort
- Selection/Solo.....Dorothy G. Hill
- Acknowledgments/Resolutions
- The Obituary.....Read Silently
- Solo.....Only What You Do For Christ Will Last.....Ann T. Scott
- The Eulogy.....Rev. Frances Murray-Williams
Pastor
- Selection
- *Recessional.....When We All Get To Heaven
- Interment.....Fairmount Cemetery
620 Central Avenue
Newark, N. J.

Flower Ladies
Mass Choir

Pall Bearers
Male Choral

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The family of Mrs. Florence Braxton Smith, sincerely thank everyone for your support and kindness shown during the illness and passing of our loved one. May God continue to bless each of you.

Family and friends are request to return to the church after the interment for a repast in the Church Dining Room.

FINAL ARRANGEMENTS ENTRUSTED TO:

Whigham Funeral Home
580 Martin Luther King Boulevard
Newark, New Jersey 07102
(973) 622-6872